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of the copious rains available there. But that tree is required elsewhere in the East Coast. Therefore, we have to see whether it would be worth while planting that tree."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The acreage mentioned by the Hon. Minister is in the regeneration area of the forest itself. But, may I know what steps the Government have taken to extend the area of forests?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We have first to regenerate denuded areas like the zamin and ex-panchayat forests. That the Government are doing now."

Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Sengipatti

*1618 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any application for grant was received by the Government from the Sengipatti Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Tanjore district for the years 1953–54 and 1954–55; and

(*b*) if so, the amount sanctioned as against the amount applied for?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. No grant was sanctioned for 1953–54 as the accounts of the Sanatorium showed a surplus. The question of sanctioning a grant for 1954–55 will arise only if the accounts for that year show a net deficit."

Constitution of new panchayats

*1619 *Q.*—SRI G. VAGHEESAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether steps are being taken to form some panchayats in the Community Projects Areas;

(*b*) how many panchayats have so far been formed in villages having a population of 1,000 and above; and

(*c*) how many are yet to be formed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to form more panchayats in the Community Projects areas.

" (*b*) Five hundred and seventy-five new panchayats have been constituted up to 31st January 1955 in the State (including Community Projects areas).

" (*c*) Panchayats are yet to be formed in 4,379 more villages in the State."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that more than 500 panchayats have been formed in the State of Madras, may I know whether he is aware of the fact

that the people living in Avadi have been petitioning to the Government for the past seven years for the formation of a panchayat for the area whose population exceeds 5,000, and if so, what action the Government have so far taken in that direction?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would suggest to the hon. Member to put the question to the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration."

SRI R. KRISHNASWAMI NAIDU :—" தேசீய விஸ்தரிப்புத் திட்டம், சமுதாய அபிவிருத்தி திட்டம், ஐந்தாண்டு திட்டம் முதலியவைகள் கிராம பஞ்சாயத்துகள் மூலம் நிறைவேறியிருக்கின்றன. அப்படியிருக்க பஞ்சாயத்துகளில்லாத கிராமப் பிரதேசங்களில் இன்னும் பஞ்சாயத்து அமைப்பு நிறைவேற்றப்படுவதாக இல்லை. கால தாமதம் ஆகின்றது. இவ்வளவு கால தாமதம் ஆவதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" மறுபடியும் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், இந்தக் கேள்விக்கு எற்கெனவேயே பதில் சொல்லியாகிவிட்டது என்று."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" கனம் விநாயகம் கேட்ட கேள்விக்கு பதில் அளிக்கும்போது ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன மந்திரியைக்கேட்க வேண்டும் என்று சொன்னார். ஆனால் கம்யூனிடி ப்ராஜெக்ட் ஏரியாவில் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டுகளையெல்லாம் கனம் விவசாய மந்திரி பராமரிக்கிறாரா என்பதைக் கேட்க விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" கம்யூனிடி ப்ராஜெக்ட் ஏரியாவிற்கு என்று தனி ஆட்சி ஒன்றும் இல்லை. அங்குள்ள போர்டுகளை கவனிப்பதும் அதை பராமரிப்பதும் அந்த ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன மந்திரி அவர்கள்தான்."

Pavement dwellers in the City

* 1620 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken steps to find out the number of pavement dwellers in the City of Madras; and

(*b*) the measures to be taken for their rehabilitation?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The Corporation of Madras after a civic survey of pavement dwellers has ascertained their number to be 20,476 comprising 6,492 families.

" (*b*) The Government have asked the Corporation of Madras and the Collector of Madras to make special efforts to find some vacant-sites in and around centres of the City so that such sites may be provided with some shelter for the pavement-dwellers. The Madras City Improvement Trust has also applied to Government of India for transfer of certain military lands in George Town in order to construct tenements for about 663 families living on pavements and street margins in the Madras Harbour area. The application has been forwarded to the Government of India with this Government's recommendation. The Government are also considering a comprehensive scheme submitted by the Corporation of Madras for the improvement of slums in the city providing also for accommodation of pavement dwellers."